



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

HOMICIDE SUSPECT IN TEXAS PRISON RETURNED TO MEXICO *Gilberto Hernandez-Hernandez wanted for death in Zacatecas*

LAREDO, Texas—A criminal alien serving a prison sentence while wanted as a homicide suspect in Mexico was handed over to Mexico authorities Thursday.

Gilberto Hernandez-Hernandez was convicted March 5, 2001 in Dallas for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and was serving a sentence in the Texas Department of Corrections' (TDC) Huntsville Prison,

ICE placed Hernandez into removal proceedings while he was serving his sentence, and he was subsequently ordered removed by a federal immigration judge July 10, 2001.

"Because Hernandez was a convicted aggravated felon, he had to serve out his sentence in the Texas prison system," explained Marc Moore, who leads ICE's detention and removal efforts in San Antonio. Moore said the Mexican Attorney General's Office (PGR) contacted ICE and requested Hernandez's return to Mexico as a suspect in a Zacatecas homicide.

"ICE has an active and successful program to identify and remove criminal aliens from this country," Moore said, adding that in the San Antonio area of operation, ICE removed 6,550 criminal aliens between Oct. 1, 2003 and Sept. 30, 2004.

Because Hernandez was serving his sentence in TDC's Huntsville prison, the Houston ICE Detention and Removal office coordinated the case with the PGR and the San Antonio Detention and Removal office.

"It is our responsibility to continue to aggressively identify, locate and remove such dangerous criminals from our country, especially when their crimes cross international boundaries," said Field Office Director Charles Arendale at the Houston ICE office. "This extradition was successful because there was close coordination between our office and the ICE offices in San Antonio.

Hernandez illegally entered the U.S. near San Ysidro, Calif. in 1979, where he was caught and voluntarily returned to Mexico, only to return near Burleson, Texas a week later. He later applied for lawful permanent residency in June 1985 under amnesty provisions, and received a green card in November 1990.

As a convicted aggravated felon, Hernandez qualified to be deported immediately.

Nationwide, ICE is engaged in a 10-year strategic initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing more than 400,000 alien absconders and 80,000 criminal aliens with outstanding final orders of removal who are hiding in the United States.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.